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## Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

### Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph (c) of Economic and Social Council decision 2010/236. It begins by highlighting key decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at its twenty-third session. It then describes the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat, including the nature of cooperation involved, in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional, national and thematic levels. Key issues raised in main UN-Habitat publications during the reporting period are also highlighted.

The report concludes with four recommendations: the first calling for an early decision by Governments on the convening, in 2016, of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development; the second calling for support by Governments and United Nations agencies for the resolution on global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session; the third requesting Governments to include sustainable urban development and the role of cities and local authorities in their contributions to the preparatory process for and deliberations at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and the fourth requesting the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the preparations for and follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph (c) of Economic and Social Council decision 2010/236.

2. During this period, UN-Habitat broadened its cooperation with agencies and organizations across the United Nations system. Among the main vehicles for cooperation were: the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including its three pillars, the United Nations Development Group, the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the High-Level Committee on Management; the Executive Committee on Economic and Socia Affairs; and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. Further, the Programme provided technical inputs to reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant documents, including background documents for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Outside the United Nations system, UN-Habitat continued to consolidate relations with major non-governmental partners, while exploring and strengthening new partnerships so as to add value to its work and leverage resources. These partners included civil society groups, the private sector, professional bodies and research and training institutions.

4. Before describing the range of activities undertaken during the reporting period, and the kinds of cooperation and partnerships pursued, some decisions taken at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat are highlighted.

# II. Decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

5. Three significant resolutions highlighted below were adopted at the twenty-third session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council held from 11 to 15 April 2011.

## A. Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

6. In December 2009, the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/207, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Governing Council, a report on the convening of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in 2016, for consideration at its sixty-sixth session.

7. In response to this request, UN-Habitat prepared a report on Habitat III, which was considered at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council. The document highlighted a number of new developments since Habitat II which make it necessary to convene a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development in 2016. These include:

(a) The increasing demographic and economic dominance of cities, which now accommodate more than half of the world's population;

(b) The rapid spatial expansion of urban settlements, leading to the emergence of megacities and mega-urban regions;

(c) The emergence of new global issues and phenomena, including globalization, climate change, urban insecurity and crime, and rising poverty and inequality within cities;

(d) The changing roles of the public, private and non-governmental sectors, as part of a resurgence of the role of the public sector in urban planning and development;

(e) The significantly increased frequency and intensity of natural and human-made disasters and their impact on cities.

8. Having considered this report, the Governing Council adopted a resolution on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, in which it took note of the report of the Executive Director on Habitat III[1] and invited the Secretary-General to include its ideas and proposals in his own report to be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty sixth session.

9. The resolution also took note of the observations made in the Executive Director's report, in particular the proposed aims of Habitat III, the purposes of which would include:

(a) To review past policies, achievements and obstacles;

(b) To put in place a new urban development agenda capable of responding to the new urban challenges and opportunities, such as climate change and urban safety and security, in addition to advancing a new role for cities and local authorities;

(c) To find ways of strengthening the institutional framework for land governance, housing and sustainable urban development.

## B. Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target

10. In its resolution on global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target, the Governing Council invited Governments and regional and local authorities to enumerate the slum populations in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to significantly improving the lives of slum-dwellers. The principal means for achieving these targets would be: (a) the formulation and implementation of national urban development strategies that prioritize improved access to adequate housing and basic services and infrastructure for slum-dwellers, including improved water and sanitation, transport, energy, health and education; (b) promotion of access to affordable land with secure tenure; (c) creation of the conditions necessary for sustainable urban livelihoods; and

[1] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4.

(d) promotion of sustainable urban development and the participation of all stakeholders, in particular slum-dwellers.

11. This resolution was adopted in response to General Assembly resolution 65/165, in particular paragraph 4, in which the General Assembly invited the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to consider appropriate global and national strategies and frameworks for future work required to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the current slum-related targets.

### C. Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure

12. In its resolution on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, the Governing Council welcomed the dialogue on this topic held during its twenty-third session as a contribution to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and requested the Executive Director to ensure transmission, through the President of the Governing Council, of the results of the dialogue to the Bureau of the Conference.

13. In the same resolution, the Governing Council further encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, among other things, to:

(a) Include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(b) Develop strategic responses to the problems of sustainable urban development, building on the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;

(c) Mobilize the commitment of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners at the international, national and local levels to promote decentralization and improve urban governance to ensure expanded equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure.

## III. Activities at the global level

14. Activities at the global level on which UN-Habitat worked with a wide range of fellow United Nations agencies, Governments and a wide range of partners included World Habitat Day 2010; the World Urban Campaign; and the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

## A. World Habitat Day 2010

15. A large number of countries celebrated World Habitat Day on 4 October 2010 in a variety of innovative ways that had a positive effect on UN-Habitat global messages and activities. A record 239 events in 79 countries were held to commemorate World Habitat Day, an increase of almost 120 per cent in the number of countries commemorating this day in 2009 and a 117 per cent increase in the number of events held. Celebrations in the United States of America continued to increase as a result of the new partnerships formed during the 2009 World Habitat Day global observance in Washington, D.C. In Latin America, where the fifth session of the World Urban Forum was held, there was also a rise in World Habitat Day celebrations. Celebrations in the Asia-Pacific region were also marked by high-level events at the Shanghai Expo and the launch of the *State of Asian Cities 2010/2011* report. A wide range of partners are increasingly using World Habitat Day to raise awareness and take action on local urban issues. National urban forums have increased from 14 in 2009 to 20 in 2010.

## B. World Urban Campaign

16. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat expanded its portfolio of partnerships for the World Urban Campaign. Eight umbrella organizations, including Building and Wood Workers International (BWI), the International Society for City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), the Commonwealth Association of Planners, GDF SUEZ, the Penn Institute for Urban Research (University of Pennsylvania) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have made commitments, through memorandums of understanding, to work on agreed principles relating to sustainable urban development. Two networks, one print (CitiScope) and one electronic (South-South News), have been brought on board to promote campaign messages and principles. Collaboration has been established with other United Nations agencies, particularly those with related global campaigns, such as the campaigns on resilient cities and also on fostering creative economies. Champions, who are compiling and disseminating lessons from innovation on sustainable urban development, have been identified in 11 cities globally.

## C. Shanghai World Expo 2010

17. As the coordinating agency of the 3,000m$^2$ United Nations pavilion (a model of "Delivering as one"), UN-Habitat succeeded in mobilizing and coordinating the participation of over 40 United Nations agencies in the six-month long Shanghai World Expo 2010, of which the theme was "Better City, Better Life". The pavilion and the entire Expo were dedicated to ideas, experiences, innovations, tools, technologies, know-how and forms of expression that portray a positive vision of an urbanizing world. The United Nations pavilion was designed to maximize the engagement of Chinese citizens (over 90 per cent of all visitors) and international visitors and to raise awareness of United Nations policies and actions undertaken with partners towards sustainable urban development. The pavilion received over 3 million visitors (exceeding its 2 million target) and United Nations agencies organized over 150 events and temporary exhibits on all aspects of cities.

18. UN-Habitat coordinated the publication of a special edition of a United Nations magazine on cities, participated in the thematic forum on liveable cities and contributed to the Shanghai Declaration adopted at the final summit on 31 October 2010,[3] calling on cities to promote sustainable urban development through cooperation and knowledge exchange. With 3 million visitors to the United Nations pavilion and some 70 million to the Expo, the event represented a significant opportunity to highlight the Habitat Agenda, especially the positive aspects of sustainable urban development.

## D. Cooperation with local authorities

19. Local authorities are considered to be the front-line actors and the closest partners to central Governments in implementing the Habitat Agenda. Cooperation with local authorities thus cuts across all UN-Habitat work at the global, regional and country levels.

20. At the global level, the work of UN-Habitat focused on engaging local authorities in efforts to ensure greater transparency and accountability for the way in which the targets of the Millennium Development Goals are being realized in the lives of people, especially slum-dwellers. A number of dialogues, round-table discussions and forums on local authorities and the Millennium Development Goals were organized as part of international events such as the Shanghai World Expo 2010. These dialogues brought together mayors and local authority associations who shared local experiences and best practices, and put forward recommendations on effectively localizing the Millennium Development Goals. United Cities and Local Governments and its regional desks were the main partners in these efforts.

21. In addition, UN-Habitat focused on strengthening its role as the focal point for local authorities within the United Nations system. The United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, hosted by UN-Habitat, stepped up its revitalization as the advisory body of local authorities in the United Nations system. New mayor members were appointed, following criteria that ensure regional and economic balance. The Advisory Committee brought mayors and resource persons to the fifth session of the Local and Regional Leaders World Summit in Mexico City in November 2010. It also organized a special meeting in Shanghai in October 2010, which aimed to facilitate dialogue between local authorities and selected United Nations agencies.

## E. South-South cooperation

22. The cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, expanded through the organization of several joint meetings, including a joint workshop on how creative economies can lead to a culture of peace, held on 17 and 18 June 2010 at United Nations Headquarters; a joint meeting of the Culture of Peace Economic Initiative and the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 8 October 2010; and the Global South-South Creative Week at the Shanghai World Exposition 2010.

[3] See http://en.expo2010.cn/a/20101031/000012.htm.

23. Several partners supported the work of UN-Habitat aimed at facilitating South-South cooperation. The most significant work in this respect included the Lake Victoria and Mekong Delta initiatives and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. The latter is managed jointly by the European Commission, the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and UN-Habitat.

24. Study tours were also organized in developing regions to facilitate south-south exchanges of experiences and knowledge. In October 2010, for example, a group of African mayors visited China to familiarize themselves with Chinese methods of urban management.

# IV. Activities at the regional level

25. Activities at the regional level focused on regional ministerial conferences and cooperation with development banks.

## A. Regional ministerial conferences

26. UN-Habitat continued to support regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. As high-level organs of policymakers responsible for steering and implementing the urban agenda, these regional ministerial conferences provide an effective partnership instrument for UN-Habitat for influencing policy, backstopping implementation and allowing for joint monitoring and evaluation.

27. UN-Habitat was represented at the third session of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development held in Bamako, Mali, from 22 to 24 November 2010. The theme of the conference was "Land in the context of sustainable urbanization", and UN-Habitat contributed, among other presentations, a statement on land policy issues in African cities. With support from UN-Habitat, ministers from the participating States drafted an action plan and declaration to tackle land issues, with a view to eliminating slums in African cities.

28. UN-Habitat has been supporting the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development since its establishment in 2006. In June 2010 the Conference held its third session, in Solo, Indonesia, at which ministers from 38 countries deliberated on the issue of empowering communities for sustainable urban development and adopted the Solo Declaration and Implementation Plan.[4]

## B. Regional development banks

29. The need to increase investment flows into the water and sanitation sector has continued to be a primary focus of the UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, and much of UN-Habitat's collaboration with regional development banks during the reporting period was driven by this need.

[4] See http://www.habitat-indonesia.or.id/apmchud/upload/dok/Solo_Declaration&Implementation%20Plan%2024Jun2010.pdf.

### African Development Bank

30. The existing collaborative partnership with the African Development Bank is particularly important in terms of ensuring that pre- and post-investment capacity-building activities supported by the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund programmes are directly and immediately linked to substantial investment opportunities in participating countries. To date, UN-Habitat activities under the collaboration have contributed to the investment of approximately $245 million in projects in five countries under the Water for African Cities Programme, in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania.

31. The collaboration between UN-Habitat and the African Development Bank to scale up the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative has been one of the outcomes of a memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions. A project formulation study to prepare a project for Bank financing has been completed. The proposed project will encompass water and sanitation infrastructure, solid waste management, and training and capacity-building for 15 towns in the Lake Victoria basin, comprising 3 towns in each of the five East African Community member States. The Bank has committed some $100 million to the project.

### Inter-American Development Bank

32. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank in the substantive areas of water and sanitation, finance and urban safety. As part of a memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Bank, the two institutions aligned their respective capacity-building activities and loan portfolios to the implementation of water and sanitation projects in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

33. In addition, UN-Habitat and the Bank initiated joint programmes in Central America, combining the catalytic lending instruments of the UN-Habitat experimental reimbursable seeding operations with the Bank's larger loan portfolio to support access by low-income households to water and sanitation services provided through large-scale infrastructure projects that have not adequately served these urban populations in the past.

34. UN-Habitat and the World Bank Institute continued partnering with the Inter-American Development Bank and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to study and disseminate recent experiences of and best practices in slum upgrading and prevention in 15 countries. The preliminary results were presented and discussed during an international expert group meeting on slum upgrading and prevention held on 25 March 2010, during the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

### Asian Development Bank

35. After satisfactory completion of joint activities under a memorandum of understanding signed between the Asian Development Bank and UN-Habitat in 2003, the two institutions continue to work together under a second memorandum of understanding for the period 2007-2012. This collaboration aims to establish urban infrastructure partnerships in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable human settlements

development, especially in the area of water and sanitation. It commits each of the two partners to providing $15 million in grant funds to raise political awareness, build capacity, implement pilot and demonstration projects, and prepare investment plans for Asian cities. The memorandum also reflects the Bank's commitment to investing $1.5 billion in the urban basic services sector, with a focus on sanitation.

# V. National, subnational and major thematic activities

36. Activities at the national and subnational levels, and on major themes, implemented in cooperation with other United Nations agencies have focused on five main Habitat Agenda issues: (a) environment, climate change and cities; (b) humanitarian assistance, especially post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction; (c) land, housing and basic services; (d) urban poverty reduction; and (e) gender, women and young people. The activities implemented under each of these areas and the types of cooperation with other United Nations agencies are described below.

## A. Environment, climate change and cities

37. In the area of environment, climate change and cities, UN-Habitat has cooperated with a number of United Nations agencies, partly through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Environment Management Group, and directly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

### Commission on Sustainable Development

38. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat participated in the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18) in May 2010. Its contribution, including during the interactive ministerial dialogue, focused on the importance of human settlements for sustainable development strategies and for their implementation at the local level, as well as the important role of both transport and waste management in addressing the challenge of climate change at the city level, while enhancing access to employment and the quality of urban life. UN-Habitat also organized three events at CSD 18: firstly, a side event on access to sustainable mobility for the poor: the benefits for housing provision, income generation and the environment; secondly, a side event on United Nations actions on education for sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production, co-organized with the United Nations University, UNEP, UNESCO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and thirdly, a UN-Habitat partner breakfast in support of the eighteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which addressed both urban transport and waste management issues.

39. UN-Habitat also provided inputs to the Secretary-General's reports on transport policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation and on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues: policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation, both for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. These inputs highlighted the interlinkages between

transport, climate change and housing, as well as the role of urban planning and design as a framework for managing the interlinkages.

**Environment Management Group**

40. UN-Habitat actively engaged with the Environment Management Group through its issue management groups related to specific environmental challenges and opportunities, including the green economy, land, biodiversity and a climate-neutral United Nations. UN-Habitat has also contributed to continuing Group discussions on environmental and social safeguards, sustainable management and international environmental governance. UN-Habitat is a contributor to the upcoming publication entitled "Global drylands: a UN system-wide response". This publication aims at the adoption of a system-wide rapid response to drylands and options for a coherent United Nations system-wide contribution to meeting land challenges, including the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

**United Nations Environment Programme**

41. During the reporting period, cooperation between UNEP and UN-Habitat continued to expand. In particular, the partnership framework for the period 2008-2013 was institutionalized through the adoption of biannual implementation plans.

42. The future of hundreds of millions of people will be determined by the pace of climate change mitigation and adaptation undertaken by cities over the coming decades. Consequently, the implementation plan for 2010-2011 focuses on cities and climate change, with particular attention paid to the following areas: cities and climate change assessments; ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal cities; buildings, housing and construction; and sustainable urban transport.

43. UN-Habitat, in cooperation with UNEP, GEF and the Governments of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), initiated a programme on promoting energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa, with the aim of mainstreaming energy-efficient measures in housing policy and building codes, standards and practices in the region. In particular, the programme is designed to assist national and local governments, the private sector and the public to adopt energy-efficient practices, energy conservation measures and renewable energy technologies in buildings, so as to tackle the problem of energy shortage and contribute to climate change mitigation by cutting greenhouse gases.

44. From 4 to 6 May 2010, UN-Habitat hosted a conference in Nairobi on green building rating in Africa. The conference participants generally embraced the World Green Building Council model as a way to help environmentally friendly stakeholders in a country's building sector to work together to promote greener building practices, and called for the formation of a regional network of emerging green building councils in Africa. UNEP also presented the key findings of its Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative.

45. UN-Habitat and UNEP have committed themselves to implementing the United Nations climate-neutral strategy and continue to coordinate their efforts in this area. UN-Habitat participates in the UNEP climate-neutral strategy, which was

launched in September 2010. The strategy sets clear emissions reduction targets for United Nations agencies, among other things.

46. Greening the United Nations compound at Gigiri in Nairobi is linked to the climate neutral process. UN-Habitat and UNEP moved into a new office building at Gigiri in early 2011. The building is a solar-powered energy-neutral office facility. Both programmes have been working closely together to make this a showcase for sustainable buildings at the United Nations and in the world in general. The new office facility was opened by the Secretary-General on 31 March 2011.

**Global Environment Facility**

47. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat embarked on substantive engagements with the secretariat of GEF. The fifth replenishment of GEF (2011-2013), approved by participating finance ministries, includes support, estimated at more than $300 million, for environmentally sound transport and urban systems, as one of its five thematic areas. It is planned that UN-Habitat will guide the execution of this thematic area.

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

48. In addition to the CSD 18 joint event on education and learning for sustainable consumption and production, mentioned earlier, UN-Habitat also contributed to the UNESCO publication entitled "Tomorrow Today", which considers the increasing significance of sustainable human development and the important role of education in attaining that goal.

49. Over the period 2009-2010, UN-Habitat and UNEP jointly chaired the United Nations Inter-Agency Committee for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and worked together on the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa programme, which focuses on the development of a master's degree on sustainable development for Africa, and is piloted by Kenyatta and Nairobi Universities, with support from the United Nations University.

**United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

50. In September 2010, UNITAR and Yale University, in partnership with a number of bodies, including UN-Habitat, organized the second UNITAR/Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy. It brought together 160 academics, governance practitioners and civil society representatives from more than 20 developed and developing countries to explore opportunities for strengthening policy-relevant research on effective governance to tackle climate change and foster a green economy.

51. UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNITAR and UN-Habitat continued to work together on a joint five-year programme on a territorial approach to climate change, which was initiated in October 2008. The overall objective of the initiative is "increased resilience to climate change impacts and reduced carbon footprint in subnational territories in developing countries and countries with economies in transition". To date, a training package on climate change developed in 2009 and 2010 has been used for training some 140 representatives of subnational authorities at workshops in Albania, Mexico, Thailand and Uganda. UN-Habitat has also supported the development and

implementation of training modules for a pilot training programme coordinated by UNEP in cooperation with the East African Local Governments Association, whose participants included Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

## B. Humanitarian assistance: post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction

52. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat activities in the area of humanitarian assistance, focusing on post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction, were implemented within the framework of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and in direct cooperation with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

### Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

53. UN-Habitat remained active within the **Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs**. Within the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee** global cluster coordination system, UN-Habitat chairs the Sub-Working Group on Housing, Land and Property of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group and provides an urban focus on relief, recovery and reconstruction programmes through the shelter, early recovery, and protection clusters.

54. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat provided country-level guidance, technical support and training to humanitarian coordinators and humanitarian country teams in Haiti, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. In addition, UN-Habitat continued to participate in shelter and early recovery coordination systems within humanitarian country teams through its operational portfolio. UN-Habitat also provided technical support to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with regard to their role as emergency shelter cluster coordinators in post-disaster operations. A series of country-specific agreements have been signed to ensure long-term shelter planning during emergencies and a smooth transition from crisis to recovery and reconstruction.

### International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

55. The UN-Habitat Bangkok Office worked closely with the **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** regional office in mainstreaming issues on urban risks, safer construction and safer settlements through the Asian Partnership on Disaster Reduction, a regional mechanism involving the relevant regional stakeholders in implementing the disaster risk reduction strategy as outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. For the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2010, UN-Habitat supported national launches of the "World risk reduction campaign: making cities resilient" in Myanmar, Thailand and Pacific countries.

56. Several joint events as part of the "Making cities resilient" campaign, and the World Urban Campaign, were organized by the **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction** and UN-Habitat during the reporting period, including at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

57. During the reporting period, FAO and UN-Habitat worked through the Global Land Tool Network on the production of three guidelines to strengthen international capacity to deal with land issues after natural disasters and in post-conflict situations.

**World Food Programme**

58. During the reporting period, within the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, UN-Habitat entered into partnership with WFP on assessing tools, methodologies and experiences in humanitarian response in urban areas and collaborated in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of key tools. UN-Habitat also provided inputs to a WFP review of tools for targeting food assistance and practices in an urban emergency context.

## C. Land, housing and basic services

59. The main partners in the implementation of the work of UN-Habitat on land, housing and basic services included the World Bank Group, UNICEF, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UN-Habitat also participated in the activities of UN-Energy and UN-Water.

**World Bank Group**

60. During the period under review UN-Habitat and the World Bank Group cooperated on land management, water and sanitation, energy efficiency and climate change adaptation, and housing finance.

61. UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, acting through its World Bank Institute, to undertake collaborative capacity-development projects in the urban sector. The first initiative undertaken under this collaborative arrangement is a joint work programme on successful approaches to national slum upgrading and prevention.

62. The World Bank and UN-Habitat carried out joint programming in land administration and policy reform in Benin, Ethiopia, India, Mexico and Rwanda, in addition to Kenya, where UN-Habitat chairs the donor group on land. UN-Habitat is a member of the Bank's advisory group on a land governance assessment framework, and the Bank is a founding member of the UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network.

63. UN-Habitat worked with the water sector of the World Bank sustainable development network to launch pre-investment capacity-building in water demand management, with the aim of accelerating Bank investments in water and sanitation in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The two institutions jointly coordinated the World Water Forum event, hosted by the Government of South Africa in March 2011.

64. The International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group and UN-Habitat jointly supported the development of a $500 million affordable housing programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. UN-Habitat provided a $1 million loan to help create a new secondary facility for affordable home lending. This catalytic investment was necessary to unlock finance from the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the International Finance Corporation, the Palestine Investment Fund, and two local banks in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Cairo Amman Bank and Bank of Palestine). The programme is expected to employ over 100,000 construction workers and aims to build more than 30,000 affordable homes in the West Bank over the programme's life.

65. The World Bank and UN-Habitat jointly supported initiatives to monitor trends in urbanization and slum formation through the Global Urban Observatory. Work to define a joint research agenda on urban inequalities, begun at a high-level dialogue organized jointly by UN-Habitat and the Bank at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, continued during the reporting period. In addition, UN-Habitat contributed to the Bank's preparation of its new urban strategy.

**United Nations Children's Fund**

66. UN-Habitat and UNICEF worked together on mechanisms for strengthening collaboration at the country and global levels in the areas of emergency water provision, sanitation and infrastructure. Collaboration is already under way in Madagascar and is being explored in Zimbabwe.

67. In Nepal, a project on arsenic mitigation, jointly implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UN-Habitat, was completed. In September 2010, UNICEF and UN-Habitat jointly secured support from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund to tackle outbreaks of diarrhoea in several districts of Nepal.

68. UN-Habitat also continued to work with UNICEF in other related areas, including promoting the Child Friendly Cities initiative and the UNICEF adolescent development and participation programme. Further, recognizing that armed violence can only be tackled through collective efforts, UN-Habitat continued to work with UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs through a global armed violence prevention programme.

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

69. UN-Habitat and ESCAP worked together on pro-poor housing finance. They jointly organized workshops on the subject in Asia and the Pacific and facilitated the formation of an Asian and Pacific pro-poor housing finance network. They also jointly developed a regional programme on urban safety for the poor.

70. As of October 2010, the UN-Habitat Bangkok office was co-located with the Sustainable Urban Development Section of the ESCAP Environment and Development Division, with a view to strengthening effective collaboration between the two agencies. UN-Habitat and ESCAP are jointly implementing various regional projects, including the Safer Cities programme and the Cities in Climate Change initiative, both funded through the Development Account. They also worked towards localizing monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and jointly publishing reports on the state of Asian cities.

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

71. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with various partners through the United Nations Housing Rights Programme, an initiative jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and OHCHR. With funding from UN-Habitat, the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions continued producing an advocacy tool in the form of the journal *Housing and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Law Quarterly*.

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

72. The existing memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and UNHCR was expanded to include support from UN-Habitat in the areas of water, sanitation and infrastructure for urban refugees and in large refugee camps. Collaboration in this area has begun in Kenya and will be expanded to Egypt and Ethiopia. Collaboration is continuing with UNHCR in the areas of housing, land and property rights protection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Sudan.

**UN-Energy**

73. Energy, as a critical basic urban service, is now one of the UN-Habitat priorities. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, as the current chair of UN-Energy Africa, took part in all UN-Energy meetings and contributed substantively to the organization of the first All-Africa Energy Week, which took place in Maputo from 1 to 4 November 2010. UN-Habitat represented UN-Energy Africa in a number of forums and conferences during the reporting period, including the Tokyo International Conference on African Development follow-up meeting in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania; the Global Energy Efficiency 21 project (organized by the United Nations Economic Commissions for Europe and Africa); the forum on the use of clean energy for better management of megacities in Africa, organized by the African Union Commission during the Shanghai World Expo 2010; and the ministerial conference of African energy ministers in Maputo. UN-Habitat also contributed to the design and development of the UN-Energy website and knowledge network.

**UN-Water**

74. As a member of UN-Water, UN-Habitat participated in the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management, which was held in Munich, Germany, in September 2010. This contributed to enhancing the interest of the private sector water and wastewater industry in engaging with United Nations agencies.

## D. Urban poverty reduction

75. In implementing its work on urban poverty reduction, UN-Habitat cooperated with two main partners, UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

**United Nations Development Programme**

76. UNDP continued to host around 40 UN-Habitat country-based programme managers and joint activities continued to be implemented in a number of countries. UN-Habitat is responsible for the settlements improvement component of the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme in Bangladesh, which is being implemented in 30 cities and towns with a budget of $55 million.

77. UN-Habitat also received funding support from UNDP for several ongoing activities. These include projects in Nepal, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Korea; the first phase of integrated shelter assistance for landless households affected by flooding in Koshi, Nepal; and capacity-building to support solid-waste management in Aceh, Indonesia. UN-Habitat is also part of the joint programme for climate change in the Philippines, which is funded by the Government of Spain through UNDP.

**International Labour Organization**

78. UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the system-wide plan of action on the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), on the theme "Full employment and decent work for all" — an initiative that is co-chaired by ILO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. UN-Habitat participated in and contributed to the discussions on inter-agency collaboration and coherence in implementing the plan of action, including at an inter-agency technical meeting on building employment and decent work in sustainable recovery and development, held in December 2010 in Turin, Italy. ILO also continued to participate actively in the World Urban Campaign.

79. UN-Habitat and ILO worked with the municipality of Kisumu, Kenya, to promote sustainable environmental management practices through what is known as a "purchasing power parity" approach, with a focus on waste management and poverty reduction. The initiative forms part of the Lake Victoria City Development Strategies programme funded by the Swedish International Development Agency.

80. In Haiti, a joint project by ILO, UNDP and UN-Habitat to recycle debris created as a result of the devastating earthquake in 2010 was developed. The project will promote micro and small enterprises in the urban and peri-urban zones of Jacmel and Leogane, creating some 3,250 jobs.

81. Under the UN joint crisis initiative, UN-Habitat actively engaged with ILO on two key programmes on social floor protection and poverty eradication. UN-Habitat contributed to an inter-agency manual on social floor protection, which is intended to be used in the coordination of the activities of United Nations agencies at the country level. UN-Habitat contributions focused on promoting pro-poor housing and urban services in the context of implementing the guidelines on access to basic urban services for all, which were approved in 2009 by the Governing Council.

## E. Gender, women and young people

82. In the cross-cutting areas of gender, women and young people (youth), UN-Habitat actively participated in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and cooperated on a variety of issues with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Department of

Economic and Social Affairs, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

**Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality**

83. As an active member of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, UN-Habitat served on various task forces, including one on violence against women, which is spearheading a system-wide response to the Secretary-General's campaign, "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". UN-Habitat also serves on the United Nations Development Group task force on strengthening gender mainstreaming at the country level, and the gender and water task force.

**United Nations Development Fund for Women**

84. UN-Habitat and UNIFEM signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2009 on a global programme on safety and security for women and girls in cities. In follow-up to this memorandum, UN-Habitat and UNIFEM, in collaboration with Women in Cities International, Jagori, the Huairou Commission and various other local and international partners, organized the third International Conference on Women's Safety, held in New Delhi, from 22 to 25 November 2010.

85. UN-Habitat collaborated with the Universitas Forum of the United Nations Office for Project Services and UNIFEM, the Huairou Commission and the International Development Research Centre to develop practical materials related to gender, decentralization and local development for use in policy forums and as educational materials for university teaching and professional development.

86. Under the United Nations joint programme for Kenya on gender equality and women's empowerment, and within the "Delivering as one" framework, UN-Habitat, UNIFEM and UNDP, together with the Kenyan ministries for local government, gender, children and social development, planning, and public service, organized a first training course for facilitators on gender and local governance through the Government Training Institute in Matuga, near Mombasa, and the Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya.

**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

87. UN-Habitat is continuing its cooperation with the United Nations Programme on Youth within the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs. It contributes regularly to the e-newsletter *UN Youth Flash*. Outreach and information activities related to the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund have been carried out in cooperation with the Department and UN-Habitat also participated in the International Youth Day on 12 August 2010.

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

88. The UN-Habitat Bangkok office and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional office for South Asia explored mechanisms for entering into a strategic partnership for crime prevention and for dealing with young people at risk in cities in Asia and the Pacific. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a joint project is being developed for funding.

89. UN-Habitat submitted a proposal to the EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General of the European Commission, which was incorporated into a UNODC proposal in 2010. An agreement has been reached with UNODC and UNITAR, together with the Swedish National Police Board, the Institute of Public Safety of Catalonia and the police forces of Montreal and Nigeria, on an annual joint workplan for the Police Platform on Urban Development.

# VI. Flagship reports

90. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat published its 2011 *Global Report on Human Settlements*, two issues in its regional State of Cities series, and one national State of Cities report.

## A. Global Report on Human Settlements 2011

91. The effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in dangerous ways that seriously threaten the world's environmental, economic and social stability. *Cities and Climate Change*, the UN-Habitat *Global Report on Human Settlements 2011*, published in April 2011, seeks to improve knowledge, among Governments and all those interested in urban development and climate change, of the contribution of cities to climate change, the impact of climate change on cities, and how cities are mitigating and adapting to climate change. More importantly, the report identifies promising mitigation and adaptation measures that are supportive of more sustainable and resilient urban development paths. Close to 80 leading experts from approximately 70 institutions were involved in the preparation of the report — most of them being academic or research institutions, and a few being local governments and non-governmental institutions with relevant experience.

92. The report argues that local action is indispensable for the realization of national climate change commitments agreed through international negotiations. Yet most of the mechanisms within the international climate change framework are addressed primarily to national Governments and do not indicate a clear process in which local governments, stakeholders and actors may participate.

93. In proposing the way forward, following a review of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures taken by cities all over the world, the report suggests three main areas in which the international community can support and enable more effective urban mitigation and adaptation responses:

(a) Financial resources need to be made more directly available to local players — for example, for climate change adaptation in vulnerable cities, for investment in a portfolio of alternative energy options, and in mitigation partnerships between local governments and local private sector organizations;

(b) Bureaucratic burdens on local access to international support should be eased, with the international community helping to create direct communication and accountability channels between local actors and international donors;

(c) Information on climate change science and options for mitigation and adaptation responses should be made more widely available by the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations and other international organizations, including available knowledge about observed and future climate impacts on urban centres, urban-based mitigation and adaptation alternatives, and the costs, benefits, potentials and limits of these options.

## B. The State of African Cities 2010

94. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat published *The State of African Cities Report 2010: Governance, Inequality and Urban Land Markets*. This second regional report on Africa was launched in Bamako, Mali, in November 2010. The report warns that the urban population of the continent stands to increase threefold over the next 40 years, with most of that growth taking place in slums. It is projected that Africa's urban population will grow to one billion in 2040, and to 1.23 billion in 2050, by which time 60 per cent of all Africans will be living in cities.

95. To meet this daunting demographic challenge, the report calls for "a people-centred perspective" which highlights the need for more appropriate and realistic planning, and regulations that are affordable to the urban poor and that facilitate, rather than restrict, sustainable urban livelihoods.

96. The report states that over the past decade or so, North Africa has achieved dramatic reductions in the proportion of urban-dwellers living in slums. However, in sub-Saharan Africa, slum improvements have generally been unable to keep pace with the rapid urbanization of the population, and the report warns that short of urgent action, a threefold increase in urban populations could spell disaster.

97. The report also notes that most countries in sub-Saharan Africa are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals. As much as 70 per cent of Africa's urban population growth will take place in smaller cities and those with populations of less than half a million, which will increasingly need public investment to cater for this growth.

98. The report contains an in-depth analysis of land mechanisms in Africa's five major subregions and suggests a mainstreaming of informal into formal land systems and markets.

## C. Asian cities reports

99. UN-Habitat launched two new publications on Asia during the global celebration of World Habitat Day in Shanghai in October 2010: *The State of Chinese Cities 2010/2011* and the *State of Asian Cities 2010/2011*.

100. The Chinese report, published in cooperation with Chinese experts, states that by the end of 2009, there were 654 cities in China that were home to 621.86 million people. With the gradual increase of urbanization, the position and role of the urban economy are becoming more important in the nation's economic development. Urbanization is already an important force in China's industrialization, driving the creation of jobs, the expansion of domestic demand and social progress. At the end of 2009, the total number of employed people in China was 779.95 million, of whom 311.20 million worked in cities and towns.

101. *The State of Asian Cities 2010/2011* states that Asia's prominent role in the world economy is driven by the relentless dynamism of its cities. However, the report also warns that Asian cities must prepare for climate change and adjust basic infrastructure and education to ongoing demographic growth if this success is to be sustained in the decades ahead. Although the population of the region will not become predominantly urban before 2026, Asian cities already epitomize the successful integration of the region into the international economy over the past two decades or so.

102. This first *State of Asian Cities* report was a result of collaboration between UN-Habitat, ESCAP, UNEP, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Section of United Cities and Local Governments.

# VII. Recommendations

**103. A number of new developments have taken place since Habitat II. These include the increasing demographic and economic dominance of cities; the emergence of megacities and mega-urban regions; the emergence of new global issues such as climate change, urban insecurity and crime, and rising poverty and inequality within cities; the changing roles of the public, private and non-governmental sectors in urban development; and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural and human-made disasters and their impacts on cities. In the light of these changes, it is recommended that a decision on the convening, in 2016, of a third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) be expedited in order to allow sufficient preparation time for the conference.**

**104. In spite of the early attainment of the Millennium Development Goals target on slums, the challenge is still huge, as 828 million people, globally, are still living in slums. Strong support by all Governments and United Nations agencies for the resolution on global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target, adopted by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session, is therefore recommended.**

**105. With more than 50 per cent of the world's population now living in urban centres, and in light of the contribution of cities to global warming and of the significant impacts of climate change on cities, it is clear that sustainable development will increasingly depend on policies adopted and actions taken at the city level. It is therefore recommended that Governments include sustainable urban development and the role of cities and local authorities in their contributions to the preparatory process for and deliberations at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.**

**106. Finally, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/165, paragraph 9, it is recommended that the Economic and Social Council include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the preparations for and follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences, including the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.**